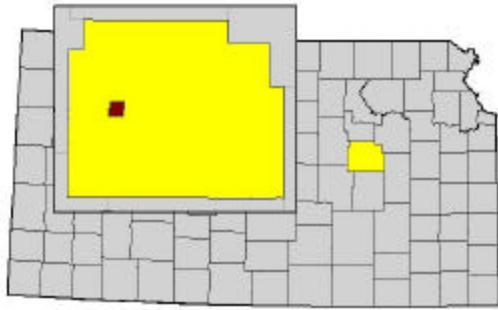


**TRI-COUNTY PUBLIC  
AIRPORT  
KANSAS  
EPA ID# KS0001402320**

**EPA Region 7  
City: NA  
County: Morris  
Other Names:**

**Modified Date: 06/18/2002**



## **SITE DESCRIPTION**

The Tri-County Public Airport (TCPA) facility comprises approximately 3.5 square miles and is located in rural Morris County, Kansas. The TCPA was originally constructed as the Herington Army Airfield (HAAF) in 1942 and was officially declared surplus in 1946. Between 1942 and 1944 the U.S. Government acquired the real property which comprised the HAAF and covered 1,724 acres. The primary function of the HAAF was the processing of heavy bombardment crews and equipment before deployment overseas. Activities at the HAAF included aircraft and vehicle maintenance, pilot training, marksmanship, and aircraft support operations. The main facilities at the HAAF included runways, hangars, aircraft maintenance shops, fuel storage tanks, motor pools, barracks, administration buildings, a sewage treatment plant, and a landfill. In 1948 title to the HAAF was conveyed to the City of Herington, Kansas. Most of the 300 buildings and structures associated with HAAF have been razed or removed. From 1948 to the present, the site has been used by a number of companies for various purposes. Operations have included aircraft restoration, plane storage, and manufacturing of farm implements, black powder, and roofing materials. From 1950 to the early 1960s, Beech Aircraft (Beech) leased all four hangars and several other buildings at the site. As part of its manufacturing operations at the site, Beech used several chemical processes which included the use of trichloroethylene degreasers and chromic acid solutions. In 1980, the Raytheon Aircraft Company (RAC) acquired Beech.

**Site Responsibility:**

**NPL LISTING HISTORY**

The site is being addressed through Federal, State, and potentially responsibility parties' actions.

**Proposed Date:** 07/27/2000

**Final Date:**

**Deleted Date:**

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## THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS



The ground water has been contaminated with trichloroethylene (TCE) and degradation products to a distance of approximately 3 miles to the north and northwest of TCPA, including the entire town of Latimer, Kansas. TCE has been detected in ground water samples collected from private wells within this distance at concentrations ranging from 3 micrograms per liter (ug/L) to 280 ug/L. TCE concentrations in 21 private wells samples exceeded the 5 ug/L maximum contaminant level (MCL) established by EPA. The highest concentration of TCE in a sample from a drinking water well was collected from the nearest private property directly north of TCPA. The results of monitoring well sampling showed that TCE is present in three different aquifers and is migrating to the northwest of the airport. These aquifers are used for private drinking water and agricultural purposes. No municipal systems draw ground water from within 4 miles of the airfield; however, 92 private wells have been identified within this area. The results of the spring sampling verified the presence of TCE in several area springs. Soils contaminated with TCE were identified at three areas on the Tri-County Public Airport property.

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## CLEANUP APPROACH

### Response Action Status

Beginning in 1995, investigations of the site and surrounding area have been conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), and the EPA. To further characterize the extent and source of the contamination, EPA conducted an expanded site investigation/remedial investigation (ESI/RI). This investigation involved sampling at the Tri-County Public Airport site as well as the surrounding area. Both soil and groundwater were sampled as part of this effort.

From November 1997 until January 24, 2001, EPA provided bottled drinking water to approximately eighteen residences where drinking water was found to exceed the MCLs for TCE of 5 ug/l. One home, with concentrations of TCE over 100 ug/l was provided with a whole house carbon filtration system as the result of an October 16, 1997, health consult from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

In March 2000 RAC entered into an agreement with EPA for a removal action which includes providing whole-house filtration units for residences with water supply wells exceeding the MCL for TCE. The removal also includes monitoring to assure that the filtration units are removing volatile organic chemicals and that all wells exceeding the MCLs for TCE and degradation products have a filtration unit installed. Installation of the whole-house treatment systems under the requirements on the Administrative Order on Consent was initiated on September 6, 2000.

In December 2000 KDHE and RAC entered into a Consent Order which requires RAC to conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Tri-County Public Airport site. RAC is currently conducting the RI/FS under a work plan dated February 8, 2001.

#### Site Facts:

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS



In March 2000 RAC entered into an agreement with EPA for a removal action which includes providing whole-house filtration units for residences with water supply wells exceeding the MCL for trichloroethylene. The removal also includes monitoring to assure that the filtration units are removing volatile organic chemicals and that all wells exceeding the MCLs have a filtration unit installed. Installation of the whole-house treatment systems under the requirements on the Administrative Order on Consent was initiated on September 6, 2000. A RI/FS is being conducted by RAC at the site under an agreement with KDHE.

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## SITE REPOSITORY



Herington Public Library  
102 South Broadway  
Herington, Kansas 67449  
(785) 258-2011

Superfund Records Center  
901 N. 5th St.  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
Mail Stop SUPR  
(913)551-4038

## REGIONAL CONTACTS

**SITE MANAGER:**

Bill Bunn/SUPR/R7/USEPA/US

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

bunn.bill@epa.gov  
(913) 551-7792

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COORDINATOR:** Debbie Kring/OEP/R7/USEPA/US

kring.debbie@epa.gov

**PHONE NUMBER:**

(913) 551-7725

**PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER:**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

**STATE CONTACT:**

Donna Porter, KDHE

**PHONE NUMBER:**

(785) 296-1936

## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

**STATE:**

KS  
07XS

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:**

**EPA ORGANIZATION:**

SFD-

## MODIFICATIONS